THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir. Planning Commission has provided an approved outlay of Rs. 1270 crores during the Tenth Five Year Plan period for the National AIDS Control Programme. Further, during 2003-04 a provision of Rs. 225 crores has been earmarked for implementation of the Project.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Annual Report of NACO

1560. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National AIDS Control Organisation brings out Annual Report on its activities in the field of AIDS;

(b) if so, whether no such publication has been published for the current year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken for publication of the report alongwith the likely time to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) A compiled Annual Report on the various activities undertaken by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is published every year. The details of the activities carried out by NACO are also included in the same.

Leprosy patients

†1561. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has highest number of leprosy patients in the World;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been carried out in this regard;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government have formulated any programme for eradication of leprosy; and

(e) if so, by when the above programme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) So far, four Nationwide Modified Leprosy Elimination Campaign (MLEC) have been undertaken during 1998-03. These campaigns have resulted in detection of following cases:—

MLEC-I (1998-1999) detected-4.63 lakh leprosy cases.

MLEC-II (1999-2000) detected-2.13 lakh leprosy cases.

MLEC-III (2001-2002) detected-1.63 lakh leprosy cases.

MLEC-IV (2002-2003) detected-1.04 lakh leprosy cases.

Besides this, there is a regular monthly reporting system in which consolidated report is sent to Central Leprosy Division by the respective State Leprosy Officers. As per latest reports received from States upto the month of June, 2003 (provisional) we have 3.29 lakhs cases of leprosy in India.

(d) and (e) Government of India is already implementing a 100% Centrally sponsored National Leprosy Control Programme with effect from 1954-55 and further intensified as National Leprosy Eradication Programme with effect from 1983-84, in the whole country. Currently National Leprosy Elimination Project-II with World Bank assistance is being implemented since 1.4.2001 for 3 years.

Retail prices of drugs

1562. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to Government's notice that drugs manufacturers are fixing maximum retail price of medicines many times more than the actual value of the generics;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted on the price structure of the medicines; and